

Message Text

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ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 CU-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 AF-06

ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 BIB-01 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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NESCO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PORG, UNESCO, US

SUBJECT: SOVIET PRESENCE AT UNESCO - CULTURAL ATTRAC-
TIONS

REF: PARIS 5051

1. AS FOLLOW UP TO REFTEL PERMDEL HAS OBTAINED FROM UNESCO SECRETARIAT A LIST OF (A) CULTURAL EVENTS ORGANIZED BY MEMBER STATES IN 1975 AND (B) CULTURAL EVENTS ORGANIZED BY NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN 1975. THE LIST REVEALS THAT IN THE FIRST CATEGORY (A) OF 17 EVENTS HELD ON UNESCO PREMISES 10 WERE SPONSORED BY THE USSR OR EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. IN THE SECOND CATEGORY (B) OF FIVE CULTURAL EVENTS, FOUR WERE SOVIET OR EASTERN EUROPEAN. THE FIFTH WAS PERUVIAN SPONSORED.

2. THESE EVENTS FEATURED PERFORMANCES BY THE HIGHLY TOUTED RED ARMY CHORUS, AND THE SIBERIAN BALLET COMPANY. IN ADDITION, THERE WAS A FILM FESTIVAL COMMEMORATING WWII PLUS EXHIBITS OF BOOKS AND PHOTOS.

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3. IT SHOULD BE POINTED OUT THAT UNESCO FACILITIES ARE AVAILABLE TO ANY MEMBER STATE OR AFFILIATED NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION. CHOICE OF THE ATTRACTIONS IS NOT CONTROLLED BY THE SECRETARIAT AND THE LARGE NUMBERS OF SOVIET PRESENTATIONS CAN ONLY BE JUDGED AS REFLECTING CALCULATED POLICIES OF THE USSR.

4. INVITATIONS TO SOVIET ATTRACTIONS REGULARLY GO OUT NOT ONLY TO PERMDELS BUT ALSO TO MEMBERS OF THE SECRETARIAT. FOR SOME EVENTS, I.E., THE RED ARMY CHORUS, THERE WAS NOT ONLY "STANDING ROOM ONLY", BUT NEAR RIOTS TO GET IN TO SEE THE ATTRACTION.

5. POLITICAL BENEFITS FLOWING TO THE SOVIETS FROM THEIR CONTINUING STRING OF CULTURAL ATTRACTIONS UNDER ORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES MAY NOT HAVE BEEN LARGE IN TERMS OF COST. HOWEVER, WITH THE UNITED STATES NOT PAYING ITS CONTRIBUTION ADDED DIVIDENDS WILL AUTOMATICALLY ACCRUE. THE SOVIETS ARE CERTAINLY MAKING EVERY EFFORT TO PORTRAY THEMSELVES AS HAVING STRONG AND CONTINUING INTEREST IN UNESCO. USE OF CULTURAL ATTRACTIONS TENDS TO ENHANCE SOVIET PRESTIGE AND FOCUS ATTENTION ON THEM. IT ALSO PROVIDES A VEHICLE FOR MAKING ENROADS INTO THE SECRETARIAT THROUGH POSING AS A FRIEND OF THE ORGANIZATION.
RUSH

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